

# THE MILITANT

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## Detroit Meeting Salutes Slain Young Socialist

By Evelyn Sell

DETROIT, May 20 — About 150 persons, the largest group ever to assemble in Debs Hall here, paid tribute tonight to the work and ideals of Socialist Workers Party member Leo Bernard, killed by an assassin's bullet on the afternoon of May 16. The memorial meeting also expressed solidarity with the other two victims of the attack, 22-year-old Jan Garrett who is Wayne County chairman of the Socialist Workers Party and 19-year-old Walter Graham who is a member of the Young Socialist Alliance. All three had been shot by a man whose efforts to emigrate to the Union of South Africa and whose threats to "kill some communists" were well-known to local police and the Secret Service.

The audience represented a broad cross-section of the major social protest movements in the Detroit area. There were students and adults from the antiwar movement, black freedom-now fighters, activists from the Students for a Democratic Society, the Communist Party, the Michigan Civil Liberties Union, Facing Reality and Leo Bernard's fellow workers from the Socialist Workers Party and the Young Socialist Alliance. National and international messages of sympathy and solidarity were expressed through telegrams and the presence of people from many cities.

### Heartening Response

Frank Lovell, Michigan state chairman of the Socialist Workers Party and the chairman of the meeting, told the audience about the heartening responses to the attack on the three young socialists. "The first and most gratifying responses," he said, "came from the university centers. The students at Wayne and from the University of Michigan — those who have been identified with the antiwar movement on the campuses of this country — came immediately to the hospital to donate blood for the wounded. It was as if the news flashes of this terrible attack were appeals for blood donors. They came all afternoon on Monday and Monday night and Tuesday and the day after and still we receive calls asking if blood is still needed or what else or what more can I do . . ."

The speakers at the memorial



Leo Bernard

meeting included the murdered socialist's co-workers in the antiwar and radical movements, professors from Wayne State University and a representative from the League for Socialist Action of Canada. From their hospital beds, the two wounded youths sent messages which were read aloud to the audience.

Walter Graham is still listed as in critical condition, and faces more operations, but is expected to recover. Jan Garrett is expected to leave the hospital in a week or two. Both face long periods of recuperation.

Marilyn Levin, Detroit chairman of the Young Socialist Alliance, presented a picture of Leo Bernard as "a warm human being . . . a man of science . . . a realistic optimist." She described his evolution as a socialist and gave insights into his dedication to the struggle against racism, war and exploitation. "Leo's major concern was people," she stressed.

### Job Experience

"Leo came from a middle-class background, but his job experiences had widened his view. In order to go to school he had to work. He had worked at Receiving Hospital, where the poor of this city are taken. While there, he had witnessed a case of police brutality that deeply disturbed him. He had worked in a factory and knew how alienating this type of work can be. For a while, he was a teacher and saw the inequities of the educational system. He also spent years in the army reserves and developed a strong hatred for the military, where the class divisions existing in society as a whole are clearly defined. These experiences made him more determined to change society.

"One of the major influences that led Leo to decide to become an activist, as it did many others of his generation, was the struggle of the Negro people for freedom in this country, north and south. As much as any single thing, the Afro-American struggle opened his eyes to the true nature of a system that called itself a democ-

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Farrell Dobbs

# Int'l Vietnam Protest Planned for Aug. 6-9

## Parade Committee In N.Y. Issues Call

By Harry Ring

NEW YORK — The Fifth Avenue Vietnam Peace Parade Committee has issued an international call for united, militant protest actions against the war in Vietnam Aug. 6-9.

The call for the action was made at a Manhattan Center rally of 1,500 on May 23. Announcement of the projected demonstrations was made by Dave Dellinger, coordinator of the committee. Speakers at the rally were I. F. Stone, A. J. Muste and Isaac Deutscher. Otto Nathan was chairman.

Dellinger reported that notice of the Parade Committee decision to organize such an action had been sent to all local, national and international groups opposed to the war. Although the committee's letter was only sent out a short time ago, he said, and many groups abroad may not yet have even received it, the committee has already received communications from groups in 25 cities declaring they would organize united antiwar demonstrations Aug. 6-9, the anniversaries of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki atom bombings.

### Australian Response

Dellinger said the Australian Vietnam Action Committee, with affiliates in Australia and New Zealand, had written that it is calling for demonstrations in coordination with the New York Committee and had notified 80 Asian groups of the slated action. He said the Parade Committee is waiting to hear from other groups abroad.

The precise nature of the projected New York action has not yet been decided on, Dellinger said. He added that a planning conference would be held in June and other organizations invited to participate. More than 80 groups opposed to the war in Vietnam are now affiliated to the Parade Committee which organized the massive Fifth Avenue marches last Oct. 16 and March 26.

The rally was opened with a



Photo by Finet

NEW YORK RALLY. Scene at Manhattan Center rally of Fifth Avenue Vietnam Peace Parade Committee which announced call for antiwar demonstrations Aug. 6-9.

declaration by Dr. Nathan that the committee had a clear-cut reply to President Johnson's demand that his critics should state an alternative policy. The answer is simple, Dr. Nathan told the applauding audience, "Mr. President, bring our boys home now!"

That demand, he added, will be the theme under which the Parade Committee will pursue its future activities.

### Saigon Reports

The rally heard reports on the situation in Saigon from Stone and Muste. Stone recently spent eight days there to obtain a first-hand view of the situation for his publication, *I. F. Stone's Weekly*. Muste, chairman of the Parade Committee, was recently expelled from Saigon with a group of fellow pacifists.

Stone reported that the great majority of the Vietnamese people want an end to the war. Only the profiteers and generals want it to

continue. He charged that it is the U.S. military establishment that is pressing to keep the war going. He declared: "I wish there were some way to say: 'Let's get out!'"

Muste said he, too, had found a great war weariness in Saigon and a strong desire by the vast majority for an end to the slaughter.

He said most of the people want to negotiate a settlement with the National Liberation Front and want the American troops to get out because they feel a settlement can't be negotiated until they do withdraw. For the same reason, he said, they want an end to the Ky dictatorship which they know is determined to keep the war going.

### Bernard Slaying

The veteran pacifist charged that the Johnson administration is fanning a dangerous anti-communist hysteria in this country and pointed to the killing of Leo Bernard in Detroit as an example of what such hysteria produces.

"I hope none of us will slow down our opposition because of such incidents," he said.

The Johnson administration, he concluded, may be trying to find a way to "save face" in Vietnam. But, he added, it is not the responsibility of the antiwar movement to help them do it.

"If we yield in any way," he declared, "or slow down our intransigent opposition to the war, we shall be traitors to everything human. But if we continue, we shall have the undying gratitude

(Continued on Page 3)

## Activist in Peace Movement Murdered in Richmond, Va.

Addison Wilkins, a 20-year-old native of Richmond, Virginia, and a staff member of the Student Peace Union in New York City, was found shot to death in his home town. He was shot 10 times, five times in the head and five times in the upper back. His body and that of Malcolm Norment Jr., 41, who had been shot seven times, was found near a cemetery on Saturday, May 21.

Wilkins was a member of the Fellowship of Reconciliation and of the War Resisters League, as well as an active member of the SPU.

The Student Peace Union in New York said May 23 that there was "a great possibility" the murder of Wilkins was "committed for political reasons." It sent telegrams to the FBI, the Justice Department, Senators J. W. Fulbright and Robert Kennedy asking that a complete investigation be held.

The SPU has asked people to write to their Congressmen, the mayor of Richmond and the governor of Virginia, demanding a complete investigation of the killing.

Wilkins graduated from a Richmond high school last June and then attended the Virginia Polytechnic Institute at Blacksburg, Va. Relatives said he dropped out of school and went north in October to work for the peace movement in New York. At the SPU headquarters, Wilkins quickly became known for his hard work.

Wilkins left New York on May 11 to return to school at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and to organize a peace movement in his home state.

He was last seen at a forum Friday night, May 20, at the First Unitarian Church in Richmond.

James Silver, field secretary for SPU in New York, said: "Addison was very much opposed to the draft. He would get up mornings at 5 a.m. and go down and leaflet at Whitehall Street, telling the recruits why war was wrong and why conscription was wrong, and then come back here and work until 2 or 3 a.m. in the morning."

"His political beliefs weren't really set," Silver said. "You couldn't really say if he was a socialist, a communist or an anarchist. He had his own beliefs."



David Dellinger



## VICTIMS WERE OPPONENTS OF BUREAUCRACY

## San Francisco Union Killings

By Hal Verb

SAN FRANCISCO — Five suspects in the shotgun slayings of two union leaders here were rounded up in the second week of May. The police announced they were seeking the "triggerman" in the double assassination.

The two murdered union officials were Dow Wilson, recording secretary of Painters Union Local No. 4 of San Francisco and Lloyd Green, financial secretary of Hayward Painters Local No. 1178. Wilson was gunned down near the San Francisco Labor Temple on April 5, and Green was murdered gangland-style at his union office on May 7.

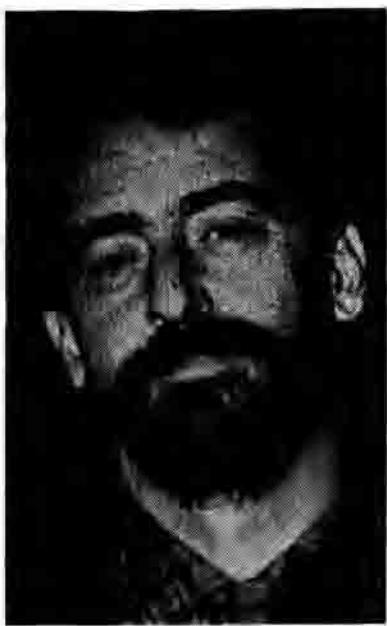
Wilson had led a vigorous fight within the International Brotherhood of Painters, Decorators and Paperhangers, AFL-CIO, on behalf of union democracy, local autonomy and union control of the spray gun and roller. Green was a supporter of Wilson in his battle against the union bureaucracy.

## Spread Fight

Wilson's death came at a time when he was seeking to extend his fight throughout the country. In March, 1966, he announced his candidacy for vice president of the International. Although he didn't expect to win, he wanted to use the campaign as a platform to oppose the policies of the present leadership.

Wilson had helped merge San Francisco's two painters' locals despite objections from the International. Painters Local No. 4 is now considered the largest painters' union in North America, and also the most democratic and most militant.

In the summer of 1965, Wilson



Dow Wilson

led a successful five-week strike, which won the best painters' union contract in the country: \$6.51 an hour in wages and fringe benefits after July 1, 1967. The union also retained control over the use of tools.

Wilson was also an outspoken opponent of "sweetheart" contracts between employers and the union at the expense of the rank and file. He paved the way for Negroes to gain entrance into the union, and helped break the color line in maintenance work on the Golden Gate Bridge.

## Several Suspects

He had defeated a move at the union's national convention to strengthen the International's control at the local level by making business agents appointive rather than elective.

The five suspects arrested in the murders were: Norman Call, a contractor from Sacramento County; Max Ward, also a contractor from the same area; Clyde S. Simmonds, an employee of Call and secretary of the Painters, Decorators and Contractors' Association of Sacramento; Richard Rock, a tavern owner in San Francisco; and Carl Moses Black, an Oakland accountant whom the FBI picked up in a Miami Beach hotel.

Call and Ward were employer-members of the board of trustees of the Painters Union Local No. 487 welfare fund in Sacramento. Black was the auditor for the fund. The fund had been under Federal investigation for two months before the murders. The government had ordered the trustees to have an independent audit made of the fund. Black was entrusted with the task. However, he requested and got a 60-day delay in the audit because he was "busy."

## Berkeley Poll Favors Withdrawal of Troops

The demand of immediate withdrawal of U.S. troops from Vietnam won top place in a poll of opinions on the war conducted at the University of California in Berkeley.

Of the 2,739 votes for one of six alternatives, 861 were for immediate withdrawal. Second choice was for the position of ending the bombings and indicating willingness to negotiate with the National Liberation Front — with 649 votes.

Third: withdraw if requested to by a government elected under UN supervision — 574 votes.

Only 323 voted for the U.S. to maintain its present position; and 302 were for an increased military commitment.

Thirty voted for the vague alternative of assuming a defensive posture.

Wilson had been one of the union leaders who had complained about alleged poor investments from the fund by its trustees. Always a staunch opponent of union corruption, he had saved the union thousands of dollars in insurance alone, by his shrewd and alert investigation of the cost of union insurance.

Since the murders, the International has kept a stony silence to the point of not even sending condolences to the locals of the murdered men.

## Tension Growing

Tension in the labor movement has been growing. The carpenters' local had added \$10,000 to the \$10,000 reserved by Local 4 as a reward for information leading to the arrest of the killers. The Building Trades Council also gave \$10,000.

The San Francisco Labor Council sent telegrams to President Johnson and other federal, state and local officials calling for action in arresting the murderers.

It was in this charged atmosphere that a special meeting was announced by Local 4, to be attended by members of the local and trade union officials of the Bay Area. Not one of the latter failed to attend.

It was at that meeting that Morris Evenson, who has taken on Wilson's job as recording secretary of Local 4, announced that the per capita tax of Local 4 would be withheld from the International as a drastic protest against the failure of the International to even send condolences to the locals.

The fight led by Wilson unavoidably led to his contact with dissident groups in other parts of the country. There can be no doubt that these dissidents understand the full meaning of Evenson's refusal to accede to the International's silence as a method of intimidation.

## Socialist Education Fund

## Your Help Is Needed

By Marvel Scholl  
Fund Director

When a propaganda-crazed "anti-communist" invaded the SWP headquarters in Detroit May 16 and wantonly took the life of one young socialist, wounding two others grievously, he demonstrated graphically another side of the vicious News Media Curtain which the capitalist press (and Washington) has drawn around all of us. It is bad enough to be spoon-fed the half-truths, downright lies and omissions which is the fare we get from the daily newspapers, TV, radio, the slick magazines and Madison Avenue.

But the poison they feed the public is even worse. Anyone who

## New CP Draft Program Is Debated in Cleveland

By Jean Simon

CLEVELAND — The Militant Forum here was the arena May 8 for a confrontation of the opposing views of the Communist Party and the Socialist Workers Party on America's road to socialism.

About 60 persons listened intently as Philip Bart, representative of *The Worker*, and Eric Reinthaler, contributor to *The Militant*, debated the merits of the new draft program of the Communist Party USA as a guide to action for the antiwar, Negro, working class and socialist movements.

The central difference, expressed both by the two speakers and in the audience question and discussion period, was over coalition politics.

The new draft program of the Communist Party, Bart explained, attempts to come to grips with the crisis in our country: poverty in the midst of abundance, the civil rights crisis, war.

## States Issues

"The greatest issue," he said, "is peace. The crisis on foreign policy overshadows all others, in our country and the world." The "socialist" countries hold the balance. "It is possible to stop imperialist aggression."

"Saying they [capitalism and socialism] can live together," Bart said, "does not mean the continued existence of capitalism — a system I would like to see abolished — but stopping the war would enable us to deal with problems in our own country."

To achieve victory in stopping the war, unity is essential, he emphasized. "We are in favor of withdrawal of troops from Vietnam, but favor unity of every force" from SANE to the left.

Turning to the problems of poverty and automation, he said the "source of the problem" is the power of monopoly. "We need in



Eric Reinthaler

this country an anti-monopoly movement. This requires a whole new political alignment. Unity of all those who want to clip the power of the monopolists."

On the question of alignment with the Democratic Party toward this end, Bart said: "We would like to put an end to the two capitalist parties, but we will not isolate ourselves from the millions in it. Our job is to get into the swim. We do not think that the left can afford to isolate itself... turn the millions... over to the LBJ's and the like."

## Two Parties

The American worker supports the two-party system, the Communist Party spokesman said. "We are for maximum struggle within the two-party system, but historically for a third party. We believe that in our country the system can be transformed peacefully."

"The 'New Program' of the Communist Party USA is neither new, nor is it America's road to socialism," Eric Reinthaler stated in opening his remarks. "I propose to outline why this program is ineffectual toward ending the war, does not offer an effective line of struggle for equality, and can only miseducate those who read it uncritically as to America's road to socialism."

The Communist Party program on peace and war is based on their "theory of peaceful co-existence" and "with respect to the problems of the Negro people in the United States, is imprisoned within narrow 'integrationist' concepts," he said.

"Its preferred political instrumentality... is the Democratic Party — working within it to 'liberalize' it, and, if failing in that endeavor, to construct a broad 'anti-monopoly' — but not anti-capitalist — third party."

## Shortcomings

The program fails to deal with "the fact that the Democratic Party is not only controlled by the American capitalist class, but is presently the 'preferred party' of the American ruling class," Reinthaler said.

"The central problem of American politics is to breakup the relationships that chain labor and the Negro people to the Democratic Party," he said. "Coalition politics... is a euphemism for class-collaborationist politics" which has resulted in frustration and disillusionment in the Negro and labor struggles at home and defeats and setbacks in colonial struggles abroad, such as the recent slaughter of Communists in Indonesia.

Successful anti-capitalist and anti-imperialist struggles in Russia in 1917, and Cuba more recently, indicate the superiority of independent mobilization on a class struggle program, Reinthaler explained.

## Weekly Calendar

The rate for advertising in this column is 40 cents a line. Display ads are \$2 a column inch. There is a ten percent discount for regular advertisers. Advertising must reach us by the Monday prior to the date of publication.

## CHICAGO

THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM. Speaker: Professor Quin McLaughlin, psychology department, Roosevelt University. Fri., June 3, 8 p.m. 302 S. Canal St. Ausp. Friday Night Socialist Forum.

JUNE 10 — Two Views: The New Communist Party Program — America's Road to Socialism? Debaters: James West, representative of the Worker; Howard Follette, representative of The Militant. Fri., June 10, 8 p.m. 302 S. Canal St. Ausp. Friday Night Socialist Forum.

## LOS ANGELES

UNITED PROTEST MEMORIAL MEETING FOR LEO BERNARD. Chairmen: Theodore Edwards. Speakers: Robert Himmel, Socialist Workers Party; Darrel Meyers, Young Socialist Alliance; Dorothy Healy, Communist Party; Bernie Shapiro, Socialist Party; John Haag, Du-Bois Club; Jason Smith, member of Progressive Labor Party; spokesman for American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California; Frank Wilkinson, National Committee to Abolish HUAC; Lou Ciccone, president UAW Local 216; Fred Patterson, N.V.A.C.; Bob Freeman, member L.A. CORE; Don Wheelon, Pasadena CORE; Eleanor Broady, Alexander Defense Committee; Spokesmen for Los Angeles Committee to End the War in Vietnam, UCLA Veterans for Peace, UCLA Vietnam Day Committee. Saturday, May 28, 8 p.m. Channing Hall, 2936 West 8 St. For information call 269-4953 or 269-9267. Ausp. Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance.

## NEW YORK

SOCIALISM AND THE NEW RADICALS. How this generation can change society. Doug Jenness, editor, Young Socialist. Fri., June 3, 8:30 p.m. 873 Broadway. Contrib. \$1, students 50c. Ausp. Militant Labor Forum.

BAZAAR: BOOKS — new, used, rare. Many other things. Saturday, June 4. Starts 4 p.m. Auction 8 p.m. 873 Broadway. Food served. Contrib. 25c. Ausp. Militant Labor Forum.

## Fund Scoreboard

Branch	Quota	Paid	Percent
Boston	\$1,200	\$1,212	101
St. Louis	150	131	87
San Diego	200	171	86
Chicago	1,800	1,410	80
Minneapolis-St. Paul	1,000	787	79
Cleveland	1,000	720	72
Detroit	1,400	1,008	72
Philadelphia	300	209	70
San Francisco	900	532	59
New York	5,800	3,166	55
Milwaukee	400	204	51
Seattle	500	250	50
Newark	150	64	43
Oakland	900	296	33
Los Angeles	4,400	1,493	34
Allentown	175	55	32
Denver	125	26	21
General	600	433	72
Totals through May 24	\$21,000	\$12,167	58



# U. S. Faces Mounting Crisis In War-Torn South Vietnam

By Dick Roberts

MAY 24 — With the U.S. position in Vietnam at the point of deepest crisis in the history of the war, Johnson chose this week to make his toughest stand so far behind the two-bit demagogic clique of "Air Vice Marshal" Nguyen Cao Ky. In return, Ky demonstrated that he understood well what obligations Washington's support entailed.

Between May 18 and May 23, Ky's tanks, troops and bombers wiped out the last sections of Buddhist resistance in Danang. On a smaller scale, the mop-up of civilians and rebelling army troops in Danang was a replication of Johnson's bloody crushing of civilian opposition in Santo Domingo — almost exactly one year ago.

As in the earlier case, reports in the American press only conveyed a spotty picture of what the six-day fighting was really like. On May 21, the *New York Times* reported that "tanks led the way, hurling shells from 90-mm. cannons, and raking foxholes, concrete block and sandbag positions and the houses along both sides of the streets with a hail of bullets from machine guns."

"The paratroops and marines followed," the *Times* continued, "crouching behind the tanks or against the houses, darting back

## Mr. Lodge Regrets

On May 23, an American soldier shot and killed a Vietnamese soldier in front of the Buddhist Institute in Saigon. The incident provoked two days of anti-American rioting. "Expressing deep regret and sympathy for the victim's family," AP reported, Ambassador Lodge "added that compensation would be paid."

and forth across the streets and blazing away at the dissidents with their rifles and grenade launchers... It was impossible to determine the casualties."

By the time the last of three pagoda strongholds was seized yesterday, there were only 300 Buddhist fighters left. Among the captured — some of whom were shot outright, while others were thrown in barbed-wire camps — was the mayor of Danang, Dr. Man, whom Ky once promised to execute for treason. Ky's forces as of the last day of the mop-up totaled 3,000.

However, Buddhist resistance continues in other cities.

President Johnson chose the occasion of a fund-raising dinner for Chicago Democrats to make his strongest attack on war critics to date. The locale was significant. Johnson warned the forthcoming candidates they better campaign for his line in Vietnam. Anything else could only be construed as unpatriotic.

Johnson's megalomania, however, did not go over very well in certain Democratic circles. After all, one of the oldest American traditions is that Democratic Party candidates can talk peace in the elections, provided only they vote for war after being elected.

## Editorial Position

The following day, the influential liberal Democratic *New York Post* came out with a front-page editorial calling for the resignation of Dean Rusk as secretary of state. In rather embarrassed tones, the Democratic editor explained:

"It can be argued that the President bears ultimate responsibility and that attempts to make Rusk a scapegoat are cowardly substitutes for taking the President to task... But the truth is that Presidential decisions in foreign affairs depend heavily upon... the Secretary of State."

A more pertinent point is that Lyndon B. Johnson's 1964 "consensus" has been totally shattered by the war in Vietnam, which the Democratic administration undertook against the wishes of the overwhelming majority of Americans. Defections like that of the *New York Post* are only a precursor of what may be in store.

## ... N. Y. Parade Committee

(Continued from Page 1)

of the overwhelming majority of the people of the earth."

Isaac Deutscher, the distinguished historian and biographer of Stalin and Trotsky, was very eloquent and moving as he discussed the international aspects of the Vietnam war. "The world watches this war," he said, "with the amazement and revulsion with which it always watches a struggle between a David and a Goliath."

Eloquently describing how the tiny guerrilla force of the National Liberation Front was standing up against the awesome might of the greatest military power in history, he declared that the capacity of the guerrillas to accomplish this amazing feat lay in their revolutionary morale. They are capable of fighting so heroically, he declared, because they are motivated by the vision of a new social order, "a social order that corresponds to their understanding of socialism."

## Contrast Cited

To underline the decisiveness of their revolutionary motivations, he contrasted the struggle of the Vietnamese guerrillas to the terrible, disastrous defeat inflicted on the giant Communist Party of Indonesia. That party collapsed without a struggle, he charged, and permitted hundreds of thousands of its supporters to be massacred because it did not have a revolutionary program and perspective.

The Indonesian Communist Party went down, he said, "because it relied on false allies. Instead of relying on its own strength and on genuine progressive allies, it relied on the national bourgeoisie and the establishment of General Sukarno. It didn't have the courage and the conviction to carry out a revolutionary struggle in a favorable situation."

While noting that neither the Soviet Union nor China has given genuinely extensive aid to the Vietnamese, he expressed the view that if the U.S. continued its Asian drive, it would ultimately drive the USSR and China closer together in a common defense. He predicted that if the U.S. were to



Photo by Finer

Isaac Deutscher

attack China, and the Soviet regime did not come to the aid of China, the Soviet regime "would be overthrown in 24 hours." This declaration was greeted by resounding applause.

Assailing liberal apologists for capitalism who argue we are living under a "new" capitalism that has solved the old problems of cyclical crises and unemployment, he showed how the "successes" of the "new" capitalism are based on the horrible wars it wages.

However, he declared ironically, Johnson is proving a teacher of Marxism and is educating many people against the revisionists of Marx. Johnson's policies, he said, are exploding the notion of a "peaceful transition" from capitalism to socialism.

He closed with a stirring tribute to the U.S. antiwar movement, declaring its emergence a momentous development in U.S. and world history and a source of great optimism for the future.

"I hope you won't permit your voice to be stifled," he declared. "See yourself in historical perspective. See the weight of what you are doing!"

## World Events

### Abram Fischer

South Africa's neo-fascist government added one more brutal crime to its long list when it sentenced 59-year-old Abram Fischer to a life sentence May 9 for alleged "conspiracy to commit sabotage" and furthering the aims of the Communist Party.

The real "crime" of this outstanding South African lawyer was serving as attorney for the defense in the famous Rivonia trial in 1964 in which Nelson Mandela and other freedom fighters were given life sentences. When he was sentenced, Fischer turned to the packed public gallery in the courtroom, smiled broadly and gave the salute of the banned African National Congress — a raised fist with thumb pointing upward.

### Unwelcome Visitors

As the date for national elections nears in the Dominican Republic, there has been a noticeable rise in anti-American incidents. The provisional government has formally called for the removal of the mainly U.S. Inter-American Peacekeeping Force by election date — but it is clear the masses of Dominicans would like to get rid of the Yankee invader much sooner.

On May 12, a crowd of about 80 Dominicans attacked two supposedly unarmed American paratroopers who were "touring" the downtown district of the city. Johnson has made no indication of any intention to withdraw the occupying GIs in the near future.

### Rhodesian Situation

May 11 marked the sixth month of independence for Rhodesian Prime Minister Ian Smith's white racist regime. The semi-anniversary is being celebrated by two talk-fests. In London, Labor Party leader Harold Wilson is conducting talks about the possibility

of further talks with the Rhodesian white supremacists.

And in New York, the United Nations Security Council is politely listening to a resolution sponsored by 32 African nations calling upon Britain to use military force to "abolish the racist minority regime." The resolution has little chance of being passed because it is opposed by Britain — and the United States.

Arthur Goldberg, U.S. representative to the UN, said that use of force in Rhodesia might prejudice a "just settlement" of the situation. Goldberg did not explain how the precedent the United States is setting in Vietnam is supposed to square with the U.S. position on Rhodesia.

### Immigrant Labor

One aspect of the European Common Market is that it provides for the flow of foreign workers from one country to the next. In this way, the fires of French and West German industries, particularly, are being fueled by immigrant labor, mainly from Spain and Italy.

A report in the May 14 *Economist* shows that the level of foreign labor is now increasing at the rate of over 500,000 a year in Western Europe. Ironically, one of the most brutal chapters of the American industrial revolution is being repeated today in Europe — the use of immigrant labor for the dirtiest, lowest paid jobs, with immigrant ghettos springing up in the large industrial cities.

According to the *Economist* report, for example, nine out of ten of the new jobs in the commodity-producing sectors in Germany were filled by foreign labor between 1960 and 1965. In the same years, Germans themselves filled 87 percent of the higher-skilled jobs in the services sector.

—Dick Roberts

## THE MILITANT

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Monday, May 30, 1966

## People of Watts Protest Fatal Shooting by Cop

By Herman Porter

The overt racism of the Los Angeles police has not been altered one bit by the uprising in Watts that took place less than a year ago, recent events demonstrate. But the black people of Los Angeles are more ready than ever to fight for justice and dignity.

On May 7, a Los Angeles cop stopped the speeding car of Leon Deadwyler who was driving his pregnant wife to the hospital. The policeman, J. M. Bova, walked to the car with drawn gun and killed Deadwyler without a word, according to eyewitnesses.

The next day, several police cars and policemen were met with rocks and bottles in two ghetto areas outside of Watts.

On May 17, about 500 people protested the shooting of Deadwyler. The demonstration began in a park in south Los Angeles, then marched to the 77th Street Precinct police station which patrols Watts. Reportedly, two white newsmen were attacked by a group after the demonstration dispersed. Another group was reported to have broken into a liquor store.

Police said there were gunshots, but did not make clear what the circumstances were.

The concern of the black community to see that the cop who shot Deadwyler is brought to justice and the killing not just whitewashed was demonstrated May 19. A crowd of more than 1,000, nearly all black, surged through the Los Angeles County Courthouse in an effort to attend the inquest. Several were injured by sheriff's deputies in two scuffles. One woman was hospitalized when the escalator a group of Negroes was riding was sadistically reversed.

The inquest was adjourned after just a half hour's testimony because of an "unruly" crowd. After the small courtroom was filled with 250 spectators, attendants tried to remove 100 of them. The hearing was switched to a room seating 400, but this too was quickly jammed.

"We came down here to see that justice was done," said Willie Everest. "They're trying to get rid of us."

"I work nights but I came here because I know the press will distort what happens," said another young man. "I wanted to see for myself."

"I've seen small children handcuffed and beaten by police," the May 20 *New York Times* quotes Maxine Howard, a Negro woman who said she was a bail bondsman. "This Deadwyler thing is going to be the big test. If he [the cop] is cleared, who knows what will happen."

About 300 returned for the second day of hearings. Half were seated, and the others won their demand for a loudspeaker to hear the proceedings.

## Deacons Arrested For Act of Defense

The following story was given to us by Friends of the Deacons in Boston, who spoke to Charles Sims, president of the Bogalusa Deacons for Defense and Justice on the telephone:

At 1:30 a.m., May 13, three men walked into the Acme Cafe in downtown Bogalusa, La. When one of the men, Bruce Bain, a CORE field worker, returned to the street to lock his car, he was attacked by a group of white men. Bain's two companions, Leyton Griffin and Fletcher Anderson of the Deacons for Defense and Justice, heard the commotion and came to his aid. One of the Deacons drew his gun and backed the eight white men away. The three then got into their car and drove off. As they proceeded down the main street, shots were fired through the rear window of the car. The Deacons returned the fire.

The following morning the three men were arrested and charged with attempted murder. Bail has been set for each at \$25,000.

Four white youths were picked up and later released.

Contributions for bail may be sent to: Charles R. Sims, 1220 Oak St., Bogalusa, La.



# "Leo's Death Has Ser

## From 4th Int'l

The murder of Leo Bernard and the wounding of Jan Garrett and Walter Graham, members of the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance in Detroit this week, arouses the indignation of revolutionists throughout the world. We grasp the hands of our American comrades in solidarity against this assault and the threat it implies. And to the families of the young victims we extend our heartfelt sympathy. These young men stood in the vanguard of their generation fighting to rid the world of the violence generated by decaying capitalism and were struck down in retaliation. Leo Bernard's memory will always be honored and in this moment we salute him and his companions.

This act of terror was carried out by a self-proclaimed anti-communist executioner who had previously notified the authorities of his desire "to fight communism" and had boasted that he was "armed and prepared." This tells much of the moral and political atmosphere in the USA, poisoned by the official crusade of "anti-communism." The terror and horror supplied by advanced technology and directed against the aspirations of peoples everywhere puts the American ruling class on trial before all humanity. They glorify and intensify their monstrous violence against the Vietnamese people. They prepare the moral ground justifying acts of terror and violence against their opponents at home. This is where the blame lies.

The American working class organizations should take serious note of this crime and the other acts of terror reported in the American press such as the bombing of the offices of the antiwar movement. The fascist-minded terrorists who gather in the dark and strike from the dark can become a menace to the labor movement itself. And the forces of the antiwar movement actively engaged in opposing their country's involvement in Vietnam should have no illusions as to the meaning of these attacks. A closing of ranks and a common front against the violence engendered by American capitalism must be sought by every serious participant in the antiwar and working class movement.

United Secretariat,  
Fourth International

## From SNCC

We of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee feel that the type of action portrayed by the killing of one member and the serious wounding of two other members of the Socialist Workers Party, Monday, May 16, 1966, and the silence by the majority of citizens of Detroit and Americans across the country will only help

incite members of minority groups, be they political, or color, to use violence as a means of assuring themselves the rights they are guaranteed.

The anti-communist statements that are spewed forth in this country set the milieu for these actions just as the racist statements that are spewed forth by the racists incite the killing of black Americans.

The people who are to be blamed for this are the people who help to define the Great Society.

We hope that members of the Socialist Workers Party would be encouraged and find strength to continue in their struggle as we have found strength in the death of our fellow comrades.

Stokeley Carmichael  
Chairman, SNCC

## From SWP Founders

To the parents of Leo Bernard, his relatives, schoolmates and all who knew him as a young man of integrity and high principles, we send our heartfelt sympathy.

To Leo's comrades-in-arms in the struggle for socialism we say, let us honor his memory by trying to do a little more to serve the cause for which he gave his young life.

Rose Karsner  
James P. Cannon  
Los Angeles, Calif.

## Berkeley VDC

Berkeley VDC sends deepest sympathy to relatives and friends of Leo Bernard. Greatly concerned for recovery of Graham and Garrett.

Berkeley VDC

## Montreal Socialists

Outraged and saddened by the assassination, wounding of comrades. Socialist America shall honor the sacrifices.

Ligue Socialiste Ouvrière  
(Socialist Workers League)  
Montreal, Canada

## Condolences

Comrades — condolences. Killing of comrade no doubt result of stand on Vietnam. Support and solidarity.

"Militant" (England)

## British New Left

All on Left must feel shock and anger about murderous attack on SWP Detroit headquarters. Sympathy; solidarity.

New Left Review  
London, England

## S. Calif. ACLU

The American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California deplores the horrible and senseless shooting of three young men on May 16 at the Socialist Workers Party headquarters in Detroit.

Though the tragedy was obvi-

ously perpetrated by a person who was mentally deranged, the ACLU believes it is time again to call to the attention of the American people that government on all levels, national, state and local, may, by imposing legal sanctions against one group of persons of a particular political ideology — American communist or socialist — be encouraging such overt and lawless reaction as that which occurred on May 16.

Sanctions such as the Smith and McCarran Acts, government committee investigations, loyalty oaths, lists of proscribed organizations, and denial of the right of American communists to speak on public property, put the official stamp of "bad guys" on one political group.

This violates the very essence of our constitutional guarantee of freedom of expression through peaceful means for all ideologies and may lead many persons to believe they have government approval to engage in any action, however lawless, to silence people whose views they have been encouraged to believe are a threat to our free society.

A free society tolerates and even encourages the expression of all beliefs. It has faith that its members, by having access to as much information as possible, can then choose intelligently. It is the role of government to encourage, rather than suppress, the dissemination of information.

Eason Monroe  
Executive Director  
ACLU of Southern Calif.

## From Auto Unionist

I see the assassination of a Detroit member of the Socialist Workers Party, and the critical wounding of two others, as part of the atmosphere of violence directed against not only the socialist and civil rights movements, but the trade union movement itself. Two leaders of the Painters Union were recently assassinated in the San Francisco area. This acceptance of violence and brutality as a way of life is part of the pattern followed by the Democratic Party administration of President Johnson in its barbaric interference in the civil war in Vietnam.

The trade union movement, the civil rights movement and the antiwar movement must recognize that they have a common enemy, a reactionary violence which is shielded by the Democratic Party, and these three movements must unite in a common defense against terrorism.

Lou Ciccone, President,  
Local 216, United Auto Workers  
Southgate, Calif.

## From England

It is with the deepest sorrow and anger that we hear today of the murder of Leo Bernard, and the wounding of two other leading comrades. This crime was obviously instigated by the insane cold-war propaganda that has been increasing in the course of the escalation of the war in Vietnam. This is a crime for which the imperialists in your country are directly responsible. Before Wanielok went to commit the "executions," he said to his wife: "I'm going to kill some Communists." Is this not the precise feeling induced by the war propaganda of imperialism ever since the time of the Russian Revolution and the accompanying social unrest in the United States after the First World War? Is not this the response to direct incitement accompanying the present extension of the war in Southeast Asia?

On behalf, then, of the "Militant" readers' group in Leeds, I wish to offer, not merely our condolences on the loss of a young and active fighter for socialism,

## Message From Jan Garrett

[The following statement from Jan Garrett, one of the wounded victims of the Detroit shooting, was read to the Detroit memorial meeting for Leo Bernard].



Jan Garrett

"If it had not been for this, I might have lived out my life as a poor fish peddler..." So began Bartolomeo Vanzetti's last words a few minutes before his assassination about forty years ago by the state of Massachusetts which ended the life of a peace-loving and kind working man.

Vanzetti's last words noted the fact that he and his friend Sacco did not choose to become martyrs for civil-rights and civil-liberties causes. Willy-nilly, they were thrust by history into this spot.

Comrade Leo Bernard could not have expected that he would sacrifice himself last Monday — nor could Walter or myself — for only slight changes could have taken us too.

Our friends and allies — from radical, progressive, civil-rights, antiwar and other groups that seek a world of abundance and harmony — who are here tonight, realize that Leo's death has served to remind us of the ultra-serious character of our job. We will have to know what steps all of us can take to reduce the chances of similar grievous losses. We will have to know how the deranged murderer was inspired and wipe out the causes of his derangement.

As I lay Monday in the emergency room at Receiving Hospital I heard the medics say, "Leo was DOA" — a jumble of Green Beret comic strips, James Bond's novels, etc., streaked through my mind. But I remembered Trotsky's remark three days before he was cut down by an assassin. Our job as socialists is "to cleanse life of all violence."

That was Leo's belief too. Perhaps others of us will not survive the vicissitudes of the fight for that kind of future.

But whatever we can give unstintingly to that goal will be fully justified by the type of society our spiritual brothers, the vast majority, will build.

but also to reaffirm our 100 percent support for and solidarity with the campaign you are waging in the United States to rally all working people to oppose the continuation of the war of extermination in Vietnam and to work for the victory of the Vietnamese workers and peasants in their struggle for independence, political freedom and economic power. We realize, moreover, that this grave and heinous assassination underlines the difficult and highly dangerous situation in which you are working, and that, under these conditions, the efforts of your party are truly heroic.

We will support any campaign arising from this incident, and we will make every effort to involve those working-class organizations in which we carry on our political work in such a campaign.

Militant Readers Group  
Leeds, England

## Build Antiwar Movement

The shocking and tragic murder of Leo Bernard and shooting of Jan Garrett and Walter Graham, young fighters against the war in Vietnam, was an attack on the entire antiwar movement. Toward full speedy recovery of Jan and Walt, we pledge new resolve to build a larger, stronger antiwar movement to bring our troops home now. There is no better way to honor the memory of Leo Bernard.

Bring the Troops Home  
Now Newsletter

## From France

The International Communist Party (French section of the Fourth International) expresses its solidarity with the Socialist Workers Party of the United States whose Detroit branch was the object of an armed attack by a fascist, prompted by the reactionary campaigns against the Negro people and for the war in Vietnam.

We salute the memory of comrade Leo Bernard, slain member of the SWP, and express our sympathy with comrades Jan Garrett and Walter Graham, members of the Young Socialist Alliance who were gravely wounded in this assault.

International Communist Party

## From PLP

Leaders of the Progressive Labor Party express anger and indignation at the attack against Detroit members of the Young Socialist Alliance and the Socialist Workers Party.

While the newspapers and the cops quickly pointed out that the attacker — who shot three men, killing Leo Bernard, 28, and critically wounding Jan Garrett and Walter Graham, was "crazy" — they neglected to point out that it was the press and the state that motivated him.

The anti-Communist propaganda dispensed by the government is of the most vicious, despicable kind. Like the attack on the Du-

## Emergency Medical Fund Set Up for Detroit Victims

DETROIT — An Emergency Medical Fund for Bernard, Garrett and Graham has been set up here. Leo Bernard was killed, and his bride of two months is now faced with funeral expenses. Jan Garrett and Walter Graham are still in Receiving Hospital under intensive medical care. Both have undergone operations and Walter Graham faces even more operations. Doctors indicate a very long recuperation period for both.

Co-chairmen of the emergency fund are Wayne State University faculty members Prof. David Herreshoff and Prof. Paul Lowinger. Dorothea Breitman is treasurer. In explaining the purposes of the fund, Prof. Lowinger stressed the idea that, in addition to the medical expenses involved, contributions to the fund are "a way of allowing the community to identify with this problem and show support..."

The fund was launched at the May 20 Memorial Meeting for Leo Bernard. Contributions can be sent to: Emergency Medical Fund for Bernard, Garrett and Graham, c/o English Dept., Wayne State University, Detroit, Mich., 48202.



# ved to Remind Us . . . "

Bois Clubs last month, this was the direct result of Washington propaganda. Nor do we forget that Larry Phelps, a young member of the Progressive Labor Party, was knifed to death in Jan., 1965, by a man similarly described as being "crazy." We ask the killers in New York and in Washington: why hasn't Larry Phelps' killer even been brought to trial, much less sentenced? The implications are clear.

**Progressive Labor Party**

## Wanton Killing

Please accept our condolences on the wanton killing of Leo Bernard. Appreciating the difficulties of the revolutionary movement in the USA only increases our respect for all those in it, regardless of theoretical differences. Hope the other comrades injured at the same time recover satisfactorily.

**Jim Scott,  
Noel Tracy,  
Constance Léver;  
Camden International Socialist  
Group, London, England**

## Spawned by Gov't Policy

I raise my voice in protest against the senseless murder of Leo Bernard and the injuries to his friends and colleagues. It is inevitable that the hatreds spawned by governmental committees and laws during the past decades should ultimately lead to individual acts of violence against those whose social concerns have been the witchhunters' target.

**Frank Wilkinson  
Comm. to Abolish HUAC**

## Anti-Communist Hysteria

Just a brief note to express my shock and that of other Spartacist members on hearing of the savage, senseless shooting of three of your comrades yesterday.

From the press account, it seems that the willful anti-communist hysteria of the ruling class inflamed some disturbed individual, turning him into a killer.

Please convey to your branch our condolences for your dead comrade and our hopes for a full, speedy recovery of the wounded ones.

**James Robertson, Editor,  
Spartacist**

## British SLL

Socialist Labour League expresses deepest sympathy with Socialist Workers Party over brutal murder of Leo Bernard and injured comrades. Please convey on our behalf same to relatives. Socialist cause for which Comrade Bernard fought will triumph.

**Gerry Healy  
National Secretary  
Socialist Labor League  
England**

## Shocked and Dismayed

I read about the shooting of three young men in Detroit last week with shock and dismay, and also with considerable foreboding. The series of bombings, the beating of pacifist demonstrators, and now this murder, are all too reminiscent of the most hideous phase of modern history. What is particularly threatening is that these events are taking place before the "lost soldiers" have returned and before any real awareness of the American role in world affairs has penetrated to the American public, an awareness which will have as its probable consequence a rationalization of forceful repression both at home and abroad.

The internal effects of current liberal imperialism are the least of its horrors, but it is still not pleasant to contemplate the brutalization that is a likely consequence of a victory through annihilation, or the kind of response that is likely if the United States is somehow compelled to withdraw its in-

vading armies from Vietnam, or suffers a military or political defeat wherever the next Vietnam will be.

No modern state ever admits to having lost a war on the battlefield — least of all, the United States. The invincible armies are, of course, stabbed in the back by civilian treachery as they are on the brink of victory. It seems not too unlikely that this primitive reaction will receive its intellectualized overtones in the social science departments of many American universities, will be whipped to a frenzy in the mass media, and will reveal itself in atrocities of which we now see the first sporadic instances.

**Noam Chomsky,  
Professor, Dept. of Modern  
Languages, M.I.T.**

## Stop the War

I should like to express my solidarity with all those who are protesting the murder of Leo Bernard. Unless the spirit of war and hysteria now abroad in the land can be checked, we are likely to have more assassinations like this. We must put an end to the war in Vietnam — now!

**Mulford Q. Sibley, Professor  
of Political Science,  
University of Minnesota**

## Common Loss

Standing with you in a time of common loss.

**Kansas University CEWW**

## From S. Calif. CP

The monstrous murder of Leo Bernard and the wounding of Jan Garrett and Walter Graham is a direct outgrowth of anti-communist hysteria. This anti-communism, which provides the justification for military aggression in Vietnam and domestic repression at home, has taken the life of Leo Bernard just as it has killed the Vietnamese fighting for independence. All Americans, fighting to end the war in the Mekong Delta and those fighting for freedom in the Mississippi Delta should join in demanding an end to the hysteria which produced this attack on members of the Socialist Workers Party.

**Dorothy Healy  
Southern California Chairman,  
Communist Party**

## Act Will Boomerang

We join with comrades everywhere in mourning the tragic loss of Leo Bernard. Yet, as we know it is with all our comrades, our grief is tempered by anger and determination — determination to intensify our efforts to build a mass opposition to the reactionary social and political order responsible for Leo's murder.

The opposition to the war is growing. The ultra-right cannot mobilize any significant section of the population against the antiwar movement. It is this that deepens their rage and frustration and drives the most frantic of them to acts such as the one Leo, Jan and Walter fell victim to.

But this too will boomerang. More people will see the need to act against a system capable of breeding such monstrous crimes.

**New York SWP**

## Continue His Struggle

The New York local of the Young Socialist Alliance, along with your memorial meeting, feels a deep grief at the loss of Leo Bernard. Remembering his death will make us redouble our efforts to fight for the socialist ideas he lived for and died for. We continue his struggle to change this world into one of peace and brotherhood, where such a vicious murder could not occur.

**New York YSA**

## Revolutionary Anger

The assassination of Comrade Leo Bernard and wounding of Jan Garrett and Walter Graham cause Denver comrades in the SWP to respond with grief at the loss of a fallen comrade and wishes of encouragement and speedy recovery of comrades Jan and Walt.

We are further moved to deep and revolutionary anger toward those forces of social decay which caused this act of violence.

May this be further grim incentive to redouble our efforts to transform a society which produces such acts.

**Denver SWP**

## LBJ's Role

The political assassination of the young socialist antiwar fighter in Detroit and the wounding of two others is only one of a series of violent attacks on the radical movement. This shocking and tragic deed follows the bombing of the W.E.B. DuBois Club offices in San Francisco and the bombing of the headquarters of the Berkeley Vietnam Day Committee.

The murder itself is a product of the reactionary witchhunt atmosphere that the pro-war and racist forces in this country have been trying to create. The assassin's crime was to take Lyndon Johnson at his word; if the role of Americans is to kill "communists" in Vietnam and Santo Domingo, then why not here at home? The line of reasoning that led to this crime is part and parcel of the justification for Johnson's crimes in Vietnam.

The way to respond to this attack is the way that we have responded to previous attacks: We will refuse to be intimidated and we must close ranks and redouble our efforts to end the war in Vietnam. While we mourn the death of Leo Bernard, we honor him as a fighter against the war and we stand committed to continue the work for which he was murdered.

**Minneapolis YSA  
University of Minnesota SDS  
Minnesota CEWW  
Rev. Vincent Hawkinson,  
Grace Univ. Lutheran Church**

## Madison Sit-Inners

Eight hundred University of Wisconsin students sitting-in at Administration Building, protesting university cooperation with Selective Service, express sympathy for victims of brutal attack, for their friends and families. We express solidarity with all those fighting for expansion of democratic rights.

**Committee on the University  
and the Draft,  
Madison, Wisc.**

## Pledge to Continue

Our committee stands in solidarity with the Detroit fighters against the war in Vietnam. Yesterday's shooting of the three young socialists, all of whom have been activists in the antiwar movement, upset us all; but it has done nothing but increase our determination to carry on the fight against the war. Please accept our sympathy and extend to Walt and Jan our pledge to continue to build the antiwar movement for which they have done so much.

**San Francisco State  
College VDC**

## Grieved and Outraged

We share your grief, shock and outrage at the murder of our comrade, Leo Bernard, and the critical wounding of Jan Garrett and Walter Graham.

Responsibility for this terrible event is directly ascribable to the sick social climate created by those who justify any atrocities — at home or abroad — with the

# Statement By Communist Party

The deliberate political murder in Detroit, Michigan, on May 16 of Leo Bernard of the Socialist Workers Party and the shooting of Jan Edward Garrett and Walter Graham of the Young Socialist Alliance in an attempt to kill them is a shocking consequence of the anti-Communist campaign of the ultra-right. These three young men who were active in the struggle to end the war in Vietnam are also victims of the domestic hatred engendered by the warmongers.

For the past several months, the murderer had planned "to kill some Communists." On March 3, the Detroit police were warned that this was the plan of this political hoodlum and did nothing about it. The Federal agencies were told about the murder plan before March 3 by a consulate in New York and did nothing about it except to tell the Detroit police. The murderer lined up his victims and started shooting with a shout, "You are all Communists." This is cold-blooded political murder and all who have responsibility must be called to account.

This murder is related to the ultra-right action organization of anti-Communist hoodlums in Detroit known as "Breakthrough" which tried to break up a meeting in Cobo Hall on May 6 at which Gus Hall was the main speaker. On that occasion, one who tried to break into the meeting carried a loaded .38 revolver with obvious intent to use it. That outfit gets its political direction from the Birchites.

This is also related to the bombings of the Communist Party headquarters building in New York, the bombing of bookstores in Detroit, Los Angeles and Chicago, the bombing of the DuBois headquarters in San Francisco and the Vietnam Day headquarters in Berkeley, the acts of arson in Chicago and Indiana, the death threats through the mails and by telephone in various cities — all of which are known to city and Federal authorities who do nothing about them. The Detroit murder must serve to halt this brand of terror in our political life. All who advocate peace, democracy and political freedom have the responsibility to speak up and strengthen these struggles.

new religion of "anti-communism."

The frightful logic of this madness was carried to its extreme expression by a man who considered South Africa, with all its white supremacist obscurities, "the only free country left in the world."

It was to the abolition of such degenerate social values that comrade Leo Bernard was dedicated. And it is to the successful completion of that task that we rededicate ourselves.

**Cleveland SWP**

## Renew Pledge

The Philadelphia local of the Young Socialist Alliance mourns the death of comrade Leo Bernard and extends its sympathies to his family and to comrades Jan and Walter.

The assassination of Leo Bernard and the wounding of Jan Garrett and Walter Graham by an ultra-rightist gunman is a tragic event which has hurt all of us deeply.

We renew our pledge to fight for the cause for which Leo died; a socialist America — a socialist world. The bravery and tenacity of comrades like Leo, Jan and Walter is an example and an inspiration to all YSAers to fight that much harder in the struggle for justice.

**Philadelphia YSA**

## Reaffirm Beliefs

The murderous assault ripping Leo from our living ranks and temporarily incapacitating Jan and Walter only re-affirms our fervor in their beliefs and our daily struggle to bring the troops home now and to work to build a socialist America and a socialist world.

The Philadelphia branch at this tragic time extends to Leo's family its warmest hand of comradeship.

**Philadelphia SWP**

## Women for Peace

In the name of the Detroit Women for Peace, we extend our sympathies to family and friends of Leo Bernard. We condemn this war which created the atmosphere making this brutal murder possible. We pledge to continue our struggle to make this world safe for all people to live together in peace and freedom.

**Detroit Women for Peace**

## Join Together

This tragedy is the result of the anti-communist and anti-socialist hysteria fostered in the country in the last 20 years. It is important for all groups to join together and fight for freedom and a better America so that Leo's death is not in vain.

**San Diego SWP**

## Memory Will Live

In a battle for the socialist future of mankind, a brave young soldier has fallen. Comrade Leo Bernard is slain, but his memory will live and his name will be remembered with gratitude and love when the names of all the rabid imperialist generals and politicians are forgotten. We deeply grieve for Garlene Bernard, for Leo Bernard's parents, and for his many friends. Courage. We await news that the other victims of the assassin, Jan Garrett and Walter Graham, will fully recover, to return to our ranks.

**San Francisco, Oakland  
SWP and YSA**

## Right Wing and Racism

As one interested in civil rights and the rights of people, I deplore the murderous attack on the Detroit headquarters of the Socialist Workers Party. I feel that anyone, no matter what his political persuasion, must have the right to exist and the right to propagate his beliefs. I've noted the striking similarity — and in many cases the same personalities are involved — in the violence against

(Continued on Page 6)



# ... Messages on Detroit Shooting

(Continued from Page 5)  
the so-called left wing organizations in America and the violence against the Negro population and civil rights workers in this country.

It is strikingly peculiar to me that the excuse for attacking the left wing is always that they plan to use violence to achieve their goals, but I have always noted that the only bombings and shootings in this country are not perpetuated by the left wing, but by the right wing or the racists — if there be a difference.

**Bob Freeman, member of  
CORE and Southside Citizens  
Defense Committee  
Los Angeles, Calif.**

## Attack on All

Shocked to hear of your tragedy. You have our deepest sympathy. This attack was against the whole socialist movement and we stand ready to aid in any way possible.  
**Ithaca Spartacist**

## Renew Dedication

To Garlene Bernard:  
The Cleveland Young Socialist Alliance shares your grief for the loss of your husband and our comrade, Leo. In his honor, we renew our dedication.  
**Cleveland YSA**

## Right-Wing Poison

We deplore the vicious act of that poor deluded man whose mind was poisoned by right-wing pro-war propaganda. He thinks he did that for his country.  
**Fred Hoffman  
UCLA Veterans for Peace**

## Won't Be Turned Back

We, in the Los Angeles local of the Young Socialist Alliance, mourn the death of comrade Leo Bernard. We extend our hopes for the rapid recovery of the two

other victims of that vicious attack last Monday, comrades Jan Garrett and Walter Graham.

While we mourn for our fallen comrade, we join with others in assuring the world and our generation in particular that such vicious attacks and regretful losses cannot turn back the struggle that we wage for a better world.

**Los Angeles YSA**

## Pledge Support

Antioch comrades send condolences on tragic murder of Leo Bernard. Hope Jan and Walter recover quickly. Pledge continuing support to party. Will continue to work for defense against right-wing attacks and for socialism. Venceremos!

**Antioch YSA**

## Casualties of Struggle

Please convey our condolences to Leo's family and give Jan and Walt our comradely wishes for a speedy recovery. All three were casualties in the struggle for a rational socialist society, and we honor them. We are confident, too, that you will proceed with what must be done.

**Seattle SWP**

## Solidarity

Deepest condolences and solidarity in face of murder of Leo Bernard. We wish quickest recovery and return to work of wounded comrades.

**Antioch College Socialist  
Education Club**

## From N-VAC

We, the members of the Non-Violent Action Committee (N-VAC), are outraged at the shooting of your members. This is a way that this country tries to silence free political thoughts and ideas. America has a long history

of trying to maintain the status quo. This policy is maintained at all times whether it be in Vietnam, Dominican Republic, San Francisco, Watts or Detroit. It is all the same.

**Los Angeles N-VAO**

## Will Continue Fight

Those of us who knew Leo and those of us who have ties only through our common ideas want to express our deepest sympathies. We here in Chicago will continue to fight for the socialist ideas he believed in so that someday such acts will not happen.

**Chicago SWP and YSA**

## Injury to All

The Los Angeles Committee to End the War in Vietnam solidarizes itself with all individuals and organizations attacked by self-proclaimed "anti-communists." An injury to one is an injury to all.

**Los Angeles CEWV**

## Prompted by Johnson

The practice of counterrevolutionary wars and interventions practiced by the Johnson administration menaces the aspirations of the downtrodden everywhere. It threatens the traditional liberties of the American people as well.

Prompted by the Johnson line of rabid anti-communism, a Detroit super-patriot and white supremacist armed himself and set out to shoot some "communists." This terroristic act is a natural result of the Hitler-like actions of the Johnson administration in south Vietnam and elsewhere.

Over all the media of communication, violence is being glorified today. What is more, the police in America continually practice legalized terror against minority peoples. Here in Los An-

geles on May 7, Leonard Deadwyler, a Negro hurrying to get his pregnant wife to the hospital, was shot and killed by the traffic cop who stopped him for speeding.

The Los Angeles branch of the Socialist Workers Party believes that the best way to honor our fallen comrade Leo Bernard is to struggle all the more resolutely for the cause for which he died — for a world socialist society that will be without violence, where peace, justice and equality can be realized!

**Los Angeles SWP**

## Gov't Indicted

The United States, in its prosecution of the war in Vietnam — its strategy of "search and destroy" human beings as if they were rodents or varmints, creates an atmosphere here at home which inflames unstable and unbalanced individuals into acts of violence against those people's ideas they do not agree with. Under the cover of anti-communism, the value of human life is cheapened. Our government cannot escape condemnation for its responsibility in the tragedy in Detroit.

**Los Angeles Alexander  
Defense Committee**

## Keep Fighting

We won't be stopped by guns or bombs. Our sympathy. Keep fighting.

**Kansas University SDS**

## Will Redouble Efforts

We share with you in mourning the tragic loss of comrade Leo Bernard and join in hoping for the speedy recovery of comrades Jan Garrett and Walter Graham. Leo Bernard will long be honored as a martyr to the cause



**REMAINS FIRM.** Walter Graham, wounded young socialist, sent a message from hospital bed to Detroit memorial meeting for Leo Bernard: "Written words can't express the tragedy of Leo's loss but we will go forward. He was a solid comrade and good friend to all of us."

of socialist emancipation. Though our grief is deep, we will respond to this attack by redoubling our efforts in the struggle for which our fallen comrade gave his life. Assassin's bullets have often struck down our ranks, but they never destroy our ideas and the movement for world socialism.

**Twin Cities SWP and YSA**

## Antiwar Martyr

The Boston branch of the Socialist Workers Party received the news of the murder of our Comrade, Leo Bernard, and the shooting of Comrades Garrett and Graham in Detroit with deep sorrow. Leo Bernard died the first martyr of the younger generation in the antiwar struggle, struck down in the springtime of his life by a fanatical reactionary rightist who was conditioned by the hysteria that prevails today against all dissenters in American society. We look forward to the recovery of Garrett and Graham. We salute them.

**Boston SWP**

## All the Firmer

The Boston YSA mourns the death of Leo Bernard. Expresses sorrow and solidarity with our comrades in Detroit who are most personally affected. The terroristic attack on three comrades in Detroit is a result of the war hysteria and the drive to intimidate those who do not conform. Just as those three were not intimidated by the war hysteria and anti-communism pervading the country; just as the Trotskyist movement has always stuck to its aims by not bending under pressure; just as the Socialist Workers Party was not intimidated by World War II or any other imperialist war — so we are not intimidated. We are inspired by the sacrifice of our comrades in Detroit and are all the firmer in our fight to end the system promoting this terrorist violence against innocent victims.

**Boston YSA**

## Spur to Efforts

Deepest regrets. We extend profound sympathy in face of this tragic occurrence. Wish for speediest recovery. This disaster must spur us to change this society responsible for these assaults.

**Beth Reisen, Ingrid Rice  
New York SDS**

## Heartfelt Sympathy

Leo Bernard, victim of vicious anti-communism, which is being reinforced by brutal war in Vietnam. Heartfelt sympathy; quick recovery for Walter Graham and Jan Garrett, so they can rejoin antiwar ranks.

**Cleveland CEWV**

# ... Detroit Meeting Salutes Slain Young Socialist

(Continued from Page 1)  
racy, and yet denied equality to 22 million of its citizens . . .

"Modest about himself, he had a high opinion about the capacities of the human race. He did not believe wars or racism or exploitation or poverty or regimentation are the result of human nature, but the result of the control of society being in the hands of a minority that benefits from these social evils. From reason and from instinct, he believed all this could be changed, and would be changed, and he held this belief so strongly that he was willing to give his life to it."

Dena Clamage, chairman of the Detroit Committee to End the War in Vietnam, paid tribute to Leo's work in the antiwar movement. She said that "he worked very hard and he was a great asset to the committee." She expressed the feelings of many young activists who understood that the attack against the three young socialists was an attack against all protesters against the status quo.

## Student of Biology

Dr. John DeCosta, associate professor of biology at Wayne State University and one of Leo's last teachers, spoke of the murdered man's special abilities as a student of biology. He explained how Leo showed "a streak of maturity that you don't so often find. Very often students in science are concerned with science and not enough concerned with the impact of science (really technology), but Leo was. Over and over again in our discussions, he would come back to this . . . and I was impressed because it has been one of my little things that scientists too often are divorced from the impact of what they're doing on society."

Lew Jones, national chairman of the Young Socialist Alliance, em-

phasized the importance of seeking the political causes of the assassination. "With a government that tries to win a war in Vietnam by killing communists, by announcing daily kill counts of communists (so-called communists), it's not very difficult to find the political cause of the tragedy that occurred here this week where a self-appointed killer of communists terroristically attacked three young men, killing one. Who can doubt where the responsibility lies; who can, when you have a government that carries its violence out on such a wide scale throughout the world . . ."

Farrell Dobbs, national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party, characterized Leo Bernard as "a young man who symbolized the anti-racist, antiwar, radical youth and socialists that are moving in increasing thousands toward a de-

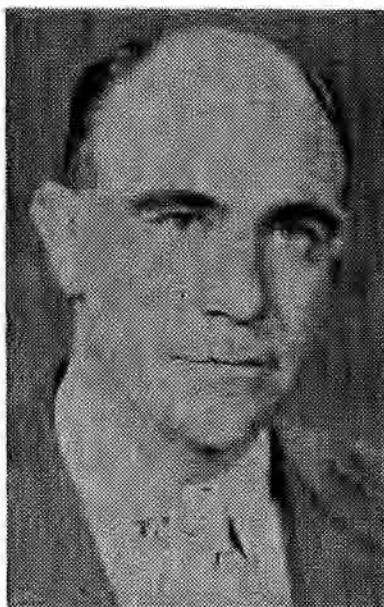
sire for social advance in this country."

In his remarks, Dobbs asked some penetrating questions that were aimed at the political nature of the crime. "There are a number of questions that need probing to get at the truth . . . We do not yet know the medical findings about the mental state of the assassin. We don't know the form or the extent of whatever derangement there may be.

## Unanswered Questions

"We do not yet know whether the assassin had association with the hate organizations who pump the most pernicious, dangerous forms of propaganda into our society — white supremacist propaganda calculated to stimulate acts of violence against Negro people and other minority peoples . . . and advocating the murder of communists as a solution to all political problems. We do not yet know whether the assassin had association with any of these hate organizations.

"There is yet another question that requires answering to get at the whole truth behind this tragedy. Why was this murderer allowed to run loose in Detroit society, in American society, after he had sought permission to go to the Union of South Africa (which in itself was a manifestation of racism) and to inform the consulate of the Union of South Africa in New York when he applied for permission to go to that country that he wanted to kill communists and that he had the guns to do so? Why was he allowed to run at large until he committed one murder and two attempted murders . . . ? I think it's fair to assume that if that man had said he was out to kill police or he was out to kill bankers and auto corporation heads in the city of



**Frank Lovell**



# Letters From Our Readers

[This column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of general interest to our readers. Please keep your letters brief. Where necessary they will be abridged. Writers' initials will be used, names being withheld unless authorization is given for use.]

## Detroit Slaying

New York, N.Y.  
I want to express my deep sympathies to the Socialist Workers Party for the tragic attack and murder that took place in your Detroit headquarters yesterday. This was another direct result of the teaching of hate and suspicion for those people who dare to express their thoughts and openly question the policies of this country.

Enclosed is my contribution for the Socialist Educational Fund.  
E.N.

## 10 Years Ago In The Militant

**FRENCH WORKERS PROTEST SHIPPING TROOPS TO ALGERIA** — The general hostility of the French population to the "dirty" war in North Africa, exploded into militant demonstrations May 19 in the southern French city of Grenoble.

Twenty policemen and several of the demonstrators were injured when crowds burst into the Grenoble railway station in an attempt to prevent the departure of a train bearing reservists bound for Algeria.

The fighting lasted many hours and delayed the departure of the train. Police reinforcements came as far as the city of Lyons, some 65 miles away. The demonstrators, among them many North Africans employed in the industries of Grenoble, unbolted track sections and jammed crowsbars into the switches . . . — May 28, 1956.

## 20 Years Ago

**FEDERAL TROOPS USED AS MINERS DEFY STRIKEBREAKING "SEIZURE"** — U.S. Army troops have been ordered out for strikebreaking duty against American workers.

As the 400,000 soft coal miners today resumed their bitter strike for health and safety conditions in defiance of Truman's "seizure" of the mines, an armored detachment of 150 soldiers from Camp Campbell moved into the Madisonville, Ky., mine fields to escort scabs and "protect" the nearby Pond River colliery.

For the first time since Roosevelt used troops to break the North American Aviation strike in 1941, the federal government and administration has employed armed forces against workers fighting for their rights. This is undoubtedly but the first contingent Truman intends to use in his efforts to force the militant miners back into the pits without satisfaction of their just demands against the profiteering mine owners.

Despite United Mine Workers President John L. Lewis' declaration of a two-week strike truce on May 10, large numbers of the wrathful miners had refused to abandon their traditional policy of "No contract, no work." Incensed by Truman's strikebreaking "seizure" of the mines, the rank-and-file strike movement spread rapidly last week prior to the railroad strike. More than 200,000 miners were already out, when the rail strike brought a virtual halt to mining operations . . . — June 1, 1946.

## Didn't Die in Vain

Pittsburgh, Pa.  
I want to tell our young comrades who were wounded to fight now to live now so they can again join us in making this world one of true peace and true brotherhood!

Tell the parents or those who were nearest Leo he has not died in vain (as did my grandson in Vietnam, April 16, 1966). We must continue to fight to bring our troops home now!!

I've been in this struggle more than 30 years — I have fought against tyranny wherever or whenever I was able. Today I feel stronger than ever that one day we will have a "Workers and Farmers Government."

Ruth Querio

## Senseless Killing

Detroit, Mich.  
The senseless killing of our fellow American strongly points up our society's political and social immaturity. However, we must do more than deplore such incidents — love and understanding for individual human beings cannot ever be forgotten as we rush onward with our mechanized lives. Love and best wishes for the future.

Mrs. Larry Dolinski

## The Real Source

Bloomington, Ind.  
The bullets that struck down Comrade Leo and left wounds in Jan and Walter were fired by madness, but real blame rests with the public filth of our country's war-gear course. With our hopes for Jan and Walter, we shall remember the sacrifice of Leo and the source of his death.

Tom and Ann Morgan

## Shall Overcome

East Lansing, Mich.  
Death of Leo Bernard is tragic. Our wishes to Jan Garrett and Walt Graham for speedy recovery. We shall overcome.

Stuart and Janet Dowty

## Victims of System

Los Angeles, Calif.  
Condolences to the family and fellow workers of the victims of a brutal system.

Michael McCabe

## From Veteran Fighter

Newberg, Ore.  
I am deeply shocked over the incident which took place at your office resulting in the death of one of your members and the serious wounding of two of his comrades.

To the immediate relations of the victims of this dastardly crime goes my sincerest sympathy. Likewise to the Detroit section of the SWP.

I do not know the background of the perpetration of this criminal

act, as I must await the next issue of *The Militant* for a comprehensive report.

However, I shall not be amiss in assuming that the act in itself is a forerunner of things to come; i.e., fascism. As an old-timer, I appeal to all anti-fascist forces to close ranks and united, carry on a determined struggle against this beastly trend.

Again, my deepest sympathy.

Dirk De Jonge

## Immeasurable Loss

Detroit, Mich.  
There is no way you can measure the loss of this young man and the wounding of Jan Garrett and Walt Graham. I really wonder if our country will ever allow its people to know the truth about socialism. Mrs. D'Angelo and I feel a deep sorrow over this terrible tragedy.

Mr. and Mrs. Sam D'Angelo

## Deeply Shocked

Detroit, Mich.  
As a resident of the city of Detroit, I was deeply shocked at the senseless shooting of three young members of the Socialist Workers Party. This constitutes a bad omen for my city and a possible "death-blow" for democracy in the United States. Freedom of speech and the

## Thought for the Week

"Since I've been here, I've taught the [South Vietnamese] soldiers to say 'bandit' instead of 'Viet Cong.' That's an achievement. It's a small one, I'll grant you. But it will mean something if it catches on. The V.C. won't think they're fighting for much of an ideology if they're being called bandits." — Capt. Lawrence Ferrell, a U.S. Army adviser in Vietnam, as reported in a dispatch to the May 19 New York Village Voice.

right to express opposing political opinions constitute the virtual cornerstone of our democratic ideals! There is surely more involved in this matter than "meets the eye." Detroit has its share of small, but fanatically militant, right-wing extremist organizations. The slayer had a known unbalanced mania about "communism." He had compiled a list of persons whom he suspected of being "communists" and there is every indication that the police were fully aware of this man's unhealthy and unreasoned hatreds.

I firmly believe that there is a possible connection between the warped mind of the slayer and the constant barrage of smears and "hate politics" being fostered by the local right-wing extremists. Birchers, Homeowners Associations and other allied groups constantly "keep the fires burning" in order to divide the community. If such tactics can possibly affect the

mind and reasoning of an adult, then I shudder to consider their effect upon our youth.

I believe that either the Mayor, Police Commissioner, or Prosecutor should form a "blue ribbon panel" to investigate the entire matter. Such an investigation must be entirely free of partisan control and it should "let the chips fall where they may." In this connection I have written our City Council to strongly urge such a course of action.

This may well be the next step of "direct action" of the right-wing to intimidate and finally silence all persons and organizations who are dedicated to exposing the Birch mentality. One of the young men died instantly and the other two are in serious condition. Surely these men are in every sense Freedom Fighters and they have risked their lives as true soldiers of democracy!

Richard M. Woodruff

## It Was Reported in the Press

**'Garbage'** — During the threatened mass resignation of New York nurses, the *New York Times* reported that a doctor at one city hospital announced: "We don't take any garbage tonight. Send the garbage back to Roosevelt Hospital or wherever they come from." The *Times* explained: "'Garbage' means people — those who are gathered into the hospitals each day because of stab wounds or heart attacks or because they are just too weak to feed themselves. The young doctor wasn't using the word 'garbage' in a derogatory manner . . . Rather it was the inside way of expressing contempt for the fact that city hospitals are often used as 'dumping' hospitals for patients no other institution wants."

**Wait Till They Tell Him** — "Reports from Saigon over the weekend are disquieting evidence that Premier Ky may not fully appreciate a basic tenet of democracy — that he governs only at the sufferance of the people." — Cong. Lester Wolff (D-N.Y.)

**Automated Greenery** — Detroit auto executives who live in nearby Grosse Pointe now enjoy the benefits of automation on their front lawns as well as at work. A current status symbol at Grosse

Point, reports the *Detroit Free Press*, is tire-sized azaleas. "After the bloom dies, they are returned to a greenhouse for the winter where a time clock turns on mist sprays, giving the proper amount of water . . . to thousands of seedlings all at once." When they bloom again they're sent back to the owner's lawn, along with a board bill. One Grosse Pointe matron commented: "It's almost cheaper to keep a child at boarding school."

**That Explains That** — Richard Russell, the Georgia Democrat who heads the Senate subcommittee which is supposed to keep an eye on the CIA, says: "The CIA has no more to do with selecting the members of this subcommittee than the Armed Services Committee has to do with selecting the editorial staff of the *New York Times*."

**Tough Going** — Columnist Drew Pearson recently reported: "American diplomats abroad are doing their best to win friends for Premier Ky in south Vietnam, but it's tough going. Ambassador Walworth Barbour in Tel Aviv has called upon Israeli Foreign Min-

ister Abba Eban to ask Israel to recognize south Vietnam. Since Premier Ky has publicly stated that Hitler is his hero, this is quite a request to make of a Jewish foreign minister. Furthermore, American policies in south Vietnam are most unpopular all over Asia, whether Moslem or Jewish."

**In LBJ Land** — President Johnson's boyhood home in Johnson City, Texas, has been officially designated a national historic monument, Rep. J. J. Pickle, a Texas Democrat, announced.

**Back at the Ranch** — Asked if they approved of the administration's handling of the situation in Vietnam, only 51 percent of the voters in Texas' Third Congressional District replied yes. Thirty-five percent said no and 14 percent were undecided.

**Reverse Play** — According to the old saw, when a man bites a dog, that's news. New York Police Commissioner Leary reported that 2,848 people were arrested for allegedly assaulting policemen in the city last year. He didn't say what provoked them.

—Harry Ring

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Spring 1966

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## Student Demonstrations Hit Deferment System

Student sit-ins and demonstrations against university cooperation with the selective service system began at the University of Chicago, spread throughout the nation and reached a new peak in size at the University of Wisconsin in Madison recently.

The demonstrations were initiated mainly by Students for a Democratic Society, and began just prior to draft-exemption examinations on Saturday, May 14.

Tom Hayden, one of the leaders of SDS, expressed the sentiments of many of the students when he told reporters in New York the deferment tests "invite students to escape the draft and let Negroes, working and poor people who cannot afford college to go fight this war. It invites students to compete with each other to decide who will study and who will die."

Even the *New York Times* felt compelled to say something about the undemocratic nature of the tests. In an editorial May 14, the powerful daily declared: "Deferment of college students places most of the burden of military service on the shoulders of the very poor or the academically untalented. This smacks of a caste system, in which prolonged education can readily turn deferment into exemption."

### Wisconsin Action

At the University of Wisconsin, the activities grew out of discussions about the SDS-sponsored picketing of the Saturday examination. About 150 students met on the previous afternoon and organized an ad hoc Committee on the University and the Draft, which voted to demand that the university cease cooperating with the draft. The group also voted to begin a sit-in at the administration building if University President Harrington failed to give a satisfactory reply to their demands by Monday at 1 p.m.

When Harrington's reply tried to pass the buck to the faculty and regents, the group marched into the first floor of the administration building and sat down. Their numbers increased rapidly, so that by Monday evening an estimated 500 to 600 students were present.

Tuesday evening saw the high point of student militancy. While upwards of 800 students filled the

administration building, 300 more crowded into a room in another building where a State Department "truth squad" was speaking. Hundreds more watched the performance on closed-circuit television. The hostile questions and the hoots and jeers at the "truth squad's" unsatisfactory answers kept the government on the defensive until one of them accused one of the students of "following the party line." At that point, the students broke up the meeting by getting up and walking out in protest.

Immediately after the State Department meeting, 2,500 students gathered on the library mall and heard a number of speakers attack the Vietnam war. At the rally, the group was cheered by the announcement that the Student Senate had endorsed part of their demands upon the administration.

### Mass March

On Wednesday afternoon, a crowd estimated at four to six thousand students marched up Bascom Hill and heard administration spokesmen announce that they had yielded to one of the protesters' demands by calling a special faculty meeting for Monday, May 23. The spokesmen made obvious attempts to soften the militancy of the demonstration by flattering the students for "following the Wisconsin Idea" and by exaggerating the importance of the one concession. Most students were not fooled, however, and they returned to the administration building to continue their discussion of strategy and tactics.

The pattern of previous days was repeated on Thursday, May 18: the sit-in continued throughout the day, followed by a mass meeting in the evening. Near morning, the committee voted to discontinue the sit-in at four-thirty, Friday, pending the outcome of Monday's faculty meeting.

## AT MILITANT LABOR FORUM

## Support Urged for "Harlem Six"

By Herman Porter

NEW YORK — Truman Nelson, historian and author, whose most recent book, *The Torture of Mothers*, tells the story of the Harlem Six, spoke at the Militant Labor Forum here May 20. Mrs. Sadie Chancy and Mrs. Mildred Thomas, aunt and mother, respectively, of two of the six teen-age young men from Harlem who were framed-up on a murder charge, also spoke. Nelson told the story of the Harlem Six and the two women recounted their own experiences in the case.

Daniel Hamm, 19; Wallace Baker, 20; Robert Rice, 18; Robert Walter Thomas, 19; William Craig, 18 and Ronald Felder, 19, all of them black, were sentenced to life imprisonment last fall for the 1964 murder of Mrs. Margit Sugar in the Sugar's used-clothing store in Harlem.

Twelve days before the murder,

Hamm and Baker had been arrested during the "fruit stand incident" in which Harlem school children accused of overturning cartons at a fruit stand were attacked by police. Nelson gave a vivid description of how the police brutally beat and then arrested the passers-by who inquired about why the police were using their billy clubs and had guns drawn on school children. The cops knocked out the eye of one of the men they arrested. All of the five arrested were beaten for hours by relays of cops at the station house.

Following the April 29 murder, armed police forcibly entered the homes of Hamm, Baker, three of their friends and many other Harlem youths. They ransacked their homes and arrested the youths without warrants. Mrs. Chancy, with whom her nephew, Ronald Felder, resided, and Mrs. Thomas told how the police broke into their homes.

After long periods of questioning and beatings, the six youths were told they were being charged with murder. The court-appointed lawyers urged all of them to plead guilty to a lesser charge for which they would get sentenced to a maximum of five years in prison in order to avoid standing trial for murder, the women related. They told how the lawyers put pressure on them to urge their boys to plead guilty to the lesser charge. But the mothers refused to do so, and the boys courageously refused to plead guilty when they knew they were innocent.

Truman Nelson described the hysterical atmosphere that was created by the press, especially the *New York Times*, in which the Negro defendants were tried by an all-white jury. The six were described in the press as being members of a black nationalist gang called the "Blood Brothers" who were organized and trained to kill and maim whites. The "Blood Brothers" was a hoax in-



Photo by Finer

Mrs. Mildred Thomas

vented by a *Times* reporter and picked up by the rest of the press, but none of the papers ever printed a retraction of their completely false stories.

The convictions have been appealed, and the young men now at last have the services of civil rights attorneys they trust. Publicity and support for their case has been growing, despite the fact that it began more than two years ago.

Those who wish to contribute to the defense of the innocent young men should contact the Charter Group for a Pledge of Conscience, Box 346, New York, N.Y. 10025. The Charter Group has retained the lawyers originally chosen by the defendants to submit a friend-of-the-court brief before the Appellate Division of the New York courts.



Photo by Finer

Mrs. Sadie Chancy

## "He Hated the Whole Slimy War"

[The following article by Barry Cunningham appeared in the May 18th *New York Post*. Sgt. Reubin Butcher was a Negro].

The young widow's eyes were reddened from anger as well as tears. Under her glasses, the skin puffed out in raw circles. Her eyelids were damp and sore.

"I've been crying since last Saturday," she said, stamping out a cigaret. "What good does it do?"

She buried the butt in a paper napkin. And rolled the napkin into a tight wad to dry her eyes.

"This war is useless," she snapped. "My husband said so in his letters before he died. He hated the whole slimy war."

Juanita Butcher's marriage to a Vietnam combat hero ended in tragedy last weekend when Sgt. Reubin Butcher, of 146-12 115th Avenue, Jamaica, Queens, strayed into a barrage of his own unit's artillery fire.

### Home in Casket

Sometime today, the 23-year-old First Cavalry Division soldier's body will be flown to New York in a metal casket.

Meanwhile, his 22-year-old widow struggles within herself to find some word that will help to explain the bewilderment and anguish.

Her father, Robert L. James, a Transit Authority employee, crisscrossed the living room of the family home yesterday, banging his fists against the walls.

"Gangsters," he growled, jabbing his finger at the Defense

Department telegram. The words, "died of wounds from friendly artillery fire" were underlined in pencil.

"To me, that sounds like a bunch of gangsters shooting at one another in the same room," he said. "We don't know who we're fighting over there, do we? We're just shooting and killing every which way."

The husky subway worker said his son-in-law was first wounded during a Viet Cong sneak attack last February.

Grenade shrapnel ripped into the soldier's right arm and leg, taking him out of combat, the father-in-law said, making his death on Saturday even more bewildering.

James said Sgt. Butcher "worried about not being able to write Juanita" because of his wounds.

Three unopened letters postmarked "Vietnam" were spread out on the dining room table as James spoke. All were addressed to Juanita from her husband. James said he wouldn't show them to his daughter until sedatives given by their family doctor had taken effect.

He went back to the living room.

"You ought to eat something," he urged Juanita, who had refused food since Saturday.

She had heard him mention the letters.

Instantly, she went into hysterics. The sedatives started to take effect and a few moments later she quieted. She fidgeted with the straps on a pair of white

fur slippers and talked of her job as a Wall Street secretary.

Then her eyes shifted to the mantel. She gazed at a glossy photograph of her husband in uniform, remembering how he had written "everything is so desolate in Korea" during his 13-month tour of duty there in 1963.

"It's twice as bad in Vietnam," he wrote to her last December. A graduate of Eli Whitney High School in Queens, Sgt. Butcher married Juanita — his high school sweetheart — while on leave in the winter of 1963.

"He had big plans to come home and start raising a family," his widow recalled in a halting voice choked with grief. "We had only nine more weeks to wait for each other."

Then the expression on her face went dead.

### Had Enough

"He wrote to me that he had killed a man. He saw some of his friends killed. I couldn't take it any more."

"I told him to keep writing me, but please don't say anything about the blood."

As she spoke, her father continued to pace back and forth across the carpet.

"I've been listening to this man from Arkansas — Mr. Fulbright," he said, "and Morse, too."

"They say we're getting nowhere in Vietnam. I agree with them."

"These pickets and the boys who burn their draft cards aren't crazy."

He said his son-in-law had writ-

ten home that "most of us don't know who we're fighting or why we're here."

James tugged at his moustache. "You don't have freedom of speech when you're in uniform," he said. "You're afraid to say anything."

"I know. I'm a city worker. I'm afraid to say anything. In fact, maybe I shouldn't say this, but my son-in-law's death was a waste."

## U. S. Now Admits Killing Of Cuban at Guantanamo

An unidentified U.S. government "reliable source" admitted May 24 that a Cuban soldier had been killed at the U.S. Naval Base at Guantanamo Bay. However, he asserted the soldier had been inside the base.

Cuba charged the soldier, a sentry at the perimeter of the base, had been killed by gunfire from the base. At first there was a flat U.S. denial that any incident had occurred. Then there was a statement that an investigation was underway. The unnamed Washington source said the incident is still being investigated.

Following the shooting, angry citizens in Santiago and other Cuban cities organized demonstrations demanding the U.S. get out of Guantanamo. The U.S. has arrogantly rejected repeated Cuban demands to get out, even though it holds the Cuban territory on the basis of an old agreement signed by one of its puppet regimes there.

## LBJ Closes Eyes To Price Hikes

The Johnson administration has decided to stop "trying" to roll back individual price increases. So reports Edwin L. Dale, Jr., one of the *New York Times*' leading economic analysts on May 15. The change in policy was not announced, but it was "confirmed today by authoritative sources."

"The new policy has been made evident in the administration's silence in the face of recent increases in the prices of sulphuric acid, coal, shoes and tires, among others," Dale comments.

In sharp contrast, "On the wage side, the administration has not yet changed its position or its tactics, but the problem is temporarily less pressing because so few major wage negotiations are due this year."